

## **PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

- I. Purpose This document outlines requirements for the use of protective clothing and equipment.
2. Applicability These requirements apply to all Portland District elements and employees.
3. Responsibility
  - a. Supervisors are responsible for identifying the need for protective clothing, providing protective clothing or equipment (PCE) when warranted and enforcing the use of the clothing and equipment.
  - b. Supervisors will establish procedures to train personnel in the requirements for selection, use, inspection, and care of personal PCE.
  - c. Use and maintenance of the clothing and equipment is the responsibility of the user. However, supervisors will establish a maintenance program that includes cleaning, disinfecting, replacing unserviceable parts, periodic inspection by qualified persons, and proper storage to protect against environmental conditions that might contaminate the PCE or lessen its effectiveness.
  - d. Qualified safety and health personnel will evaluate workplaces, operating procedures, and hazardous material data to determine work hazards and health risks.
4. References. EM 385-1-1
5. Policy.
  - a. Methods of controlling harmful exposures in the workplace are generally engineering controls, administrative controls and the use of personal PCE least desirable is the use of PPE. While engineering controls and administrative controls can reduce or eliminate exposure, personal protective equipment only provides a barrier that can fail or be misused, thereby exposing the worker.
  - b. For those jobs where engineering controls or administrative controls will not completely eliminate the hazard, PPE or clothing will be used.
  - c. Written policies on the requirements and use of PPE are in EM 385-I-I. However, each supervisor must develop local policies and ensure that policies are communicated to employees and visitors. Supervisors, with the help of the safety office will select the proper type of equipment, ensure that employees are trained in the correct use and maintenance of their equipment and enforce the use of PCE.
6. For information concerning other requirements contact the SOHO.

## **VISION AND FACE PROTECTION**

1. Purpose. This annex establishes procedures for vision and face protection.
2. Applicability. This procedure is applicable for all CENWP elements. Vision and face protection must be provided to employees wherever and whenever an operation or activity is classified as eye hazardous. Vision and face protection provided will conform to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Standard 287.1, Occupational and Industrial Eye and Face Protection.
3. References.
  - a. Title 29, CFR, Part 1910
  - b. EM 385-1-1
  - c. ANSI 2-87 and 2-358.1
4. Requirements.
  - a. Supervisors must identify eye hazards and PPE requirements.
  - b. All employees, contractors, and visitors must be informed of areas identified as eye hazardous and the required eye protection.
  - c. The SOHO will assist supervisors in determining the correct eye protection for various activities.
  - d. OSHA standards require that safety glasses and goggles meet standards developed by ANSI. Equipment that meets these standards is stamped with the 2-87 logo.
  - e. The wearing of contact lenses under a respiratory protection mask in industrial area whenever chemical eye hazards are encountered, and where the air contains foreign particles which could work under the lens and cause serious injury to the cornea is prohibited.
  - f. Motor vehicle operators and mobile equipment operators will meet the visual requirements of the license-issuing agent (generally the state of residency).
5. Emergency Eye-Wash Fountains.
  - a. Where the eyes or body of any person may be exposed to injurious corrosive materials, suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body shall be provided within the work area for emergency use.
  - b. Initial emergency treatment is usually mechanical flushing of the eyes with an adequate supply of water. ANSI 2-358.1, for emergency eyewash and shower equipment, states that active flushing should continue for a period of 15 minutes.
  - c. All employees with a potential exposure to corrosive materials will be instructed in the proper use of eye wash fountains and the length of time necessary to flush the eyes.
  - d. Consideration must be given to the type of hazard present when selecting eye/face wash equipment. Portable eye wash fountains generally are sealed units that work on a pressurized system. The tanks are pressurized by use of a hand pump. The possible loss of pressure requires increased maintenance checks to recharge them if necessary. Squeeze bottles and other plastic container devices have a water capacity less than the portable pressurized eye fountain and generally will not meet the flow rate requirements. These units will often lose water through evaporation, become contaminated, are easily misplaced and may not be available in an emergency. Based on these considerations, the following guidance is provided on the installation of emergency eye wash systems.

- (1) Eye wash squeeze bottles will not be substituted for appropriate eye wash systems.
  - (2) Permanent eye wash systems will be installed where chemical splash hazards exist and there is a continuous source of clean water.
  - (3) Portable eye-wash fountains may be allowed in remote areas when no continuous flow of fresh water is available.
  - (4) Permitted portable eye-wash systems will deliver a flow rate of 0.4 gpm for a minimum of 15 minutes and be capable of irrigating both eyes simultaneously.
- e. All eye-wash units will be in accessible locations which require no more than 10 seconds to reach. The travel route should be direct without obstacles such as doorways, steps or blocked aisles.
- f. All eye wash units will routinely be checked. Lines should be flushed at least monthly to verify proper operation.